

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

SUGASAKI et al.

: Group Art Unit: 1752

Application No. 10/673,332:

Examiner: Sin J. Lee

Filed: September 30, 2003

For: POLYMERIZABLE COMPOSITION AND PLANOGRAPHIC  
PRINTING PLATE PRECURSOR

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Mail Stop: Amendment

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Atsushi Sugasaki, do declare and state as follows:

I graduated from Kyushu University with a degree in Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry in March 1999, and with a Master's degree in Organic Chemistry in March 2001;

I joined Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. in April 2001. Since then, I have been engaged in the research and development in the field of advanced organic chemistry at the Synthetic Organic Chemistry Laboratories;

I am one of the inventors of the invention of the present application. The following additional comparative experiment was carried out by me or under my supervision in order to make the advantages of the subject matter

clearer.

#### Experiment A

A planographic printing plate precursor of Example 21 was prepared in the same manner as Example 21 described in the specification of the present application. Another planographic printing plate precursor B was prepared in the same manner as Example 21, except that the binder polymer P-2 used in Example 21 was replaced with the same amount of a binder polymer P-X shown below. P-X corresponds to a polymer obtained by converting the methacrylamide in P-2 into methyl methacrylate. The obtained planographic printing plate precursors A and B were exposed and developed in the same manner as described on p. 163 of the specification of the present application. The developing velocity of an unexposed portion of each planographic printing plate precursor was measured under the following two conditions.

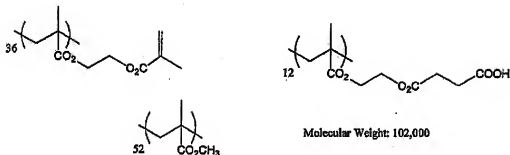
Condition (i): The exposure and the development were conducted immediately after the application of the photosensitive layer;

Condition (ii): The exposure and the development were conducted when the planographic printing plate precursor had been left in an oven at 60 °C for three days since the application of the photosensitive layer.

The results of the measurement of the developing velocity are shown in Table A below. As is clear from Table A, the planographic printing plate precursor of Example 21, containing a repeating unit having an amide group in the photosensitive layer, showed almost no decrease in developing velocity even after being left in an oven at 60 °C for three days. In contrast, the

comparative planographic printing plate precursor B, not containing a repeating unit having an amide group in the photosensitive layer, exhibited significant decrease in developing velocity during the three days storage in an oven at 60 °C. Therefore, it was clarified that the polymerizable composition described in claim 3 of the present application has unexpectedly superior storage stability of developing velocity.

#### Binder polymer P-X



#### Binder polymer P-2

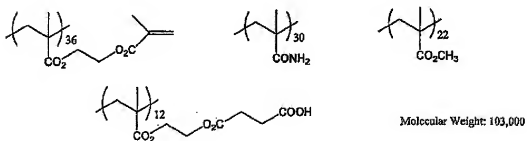


Table A

	Binder Polymer	Storage Stability Developing Velocity Immediately After Application of Photosensitive Layer	Developing Velocity When Stored in Three Days In Oven of 60°C After Application of Photosensitive Layer
Example 21	P-2	200	200
Planographic Printing Plate Precursor B (Comparative Example)	P-X	200	120

**Conclusions:**

The present invention showed unexpectedly greater improvements in storage stability of the developing velocity of an unexposed area.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

DATE: Aug. 16, 2006

Atsushi Sugasaki

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